

FAST BLAST



OUR MISSION: "Make education beyond high school financially accessible to all Californians."

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2008-09 Special Session Highlights

California's economy continues to plummet with State revenues not reaching projections and unable to support the State's expenditures. On November 6, 2008, the Governor called for a Special Session with the Legislature and laid out reduction proposals that would directly impact our educational system. The Governor has projected current-year revenue shortfalls of \$11.2 billion with an additional \$13 billion projected for 2009-10 if emergency measures to stop the shortfall are not taken immediately. For the current fiscal year, the Administration proposes a total of \$4.5 billion General Fund reductions in 2008-09 statewide. For K-14, a reduction of \$2.5 billion is proposed, along with \$132 million in ongoing reductions for the higher education segments. At this time, there are no proposed reductions in the Commission's financial aid programs or any direct reduction in its operating budget. However, Commission staff, like most other state employees, could be furloughed one day a month without pay.

The Legislative Analyst's Office
overview of the 2008 Special
Session Proposals can be viewed
by following this link: [LAO
Report](#)

We know the potential impact these proposals may have on us as well as our educational partners. The Commissioners and I assure you that we will work with you to ease the impact of these proposals on our students.

Cal Grant GPA Verification

The Commission will begin accepting electronic certified GPA uploads from schools next week for the 2009-10 academic year Cal Grant awards. The WebGrants GPA electronic function provides immediate feedback on the number of GPAs that have

been accepted and identifies errors that may occur in the upload. Electronic submission is secure, fast, and minimizes errors. Using the electronic upload option increases the probability that more of your eligible students will receive a Cal Grant award. Since these GPAs are certified electronically, a faxed or mailed paper GPA form is not required. Certified GPAs must be submitted to the Commission by the March 2 deadline. We urge schools to submit GPAs for all students who may qualify for Cal Grants.

A useful guide for electronically submitting GPAs is available on the WebGrants "Help Center" under the *User Guides—GPA Screens*.

For additional assistance, schools may contact the Commission's School Support Services staff at 888.294.0153 or schoolsupport@csac.ca.gov. Students with questions should be directed to Student Support Services at 888.224.7268 or studentsupport@csac.c.agov.

FAFSA Video Now Available

The [FAFSA For Students Video](#) aimed at helping students complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and GPA Verification form has been updated and is now available on the Web. To order a [FAFSA For Students Video](#), click on [Publications Order Forms](#). As supplies are limited, please order one per Financial Aid Administrator or Counselor at your school.

Chafee Grant Update

The Commission is pleased to report that we have obligated \$12.3-million of the \$12.6 million allocated for the 2008-09 Chafee Grant Program. The remaining \$300,000 will be awarded to additional eligible students. Please expedite the return of any unused Chafee checks. The returned funds can be used to make additional awards.

The 2009-10 Income and Asset Ceilings are now posted at www.csac.ca.gov. The Cal Grant program income and asset ceilings are adjusted annually.

2009 Cash for College Workshop Registration Now Open

The 2009 California Cash for College financial aid workshop series is open for registration. High schools, community college and university campuses, outreach and community groups can now register to host workshops that begin in January and continue through to the March 2 Cal Grant deadline. To register, click on "For Organizers" at the Workshops Page of www.calgrants.org. For additional assistance with registering your workshops, first click on [review these FAQs](#).

Cash for College Scholarship Program

We will continue to offer the \$1,000 Cash for College encouragement scholarship funded by College Access Foundation. This year the scholarship program will be extended to AB 540 students statewide.

Printed posters, flyers, and tip sheets, and Chafee foster youth and scholarship brochures are available to order at the registration site. The Cash for College/Cal Grant adaptable outreach flyer template is also available to tailor for your local flyers.

We thank you for your efforts to assist low-income and first-generation college-and career-bound high school seniors in accessing all possible financial aid.

If you have additional questions, please email Despina Costopoulos, Statewide Cash for College Coordinator at cashforcollege@csac.ca.gov.

Commission Meeting

On, Thursday, November 20, 2008, the Commission is scheduled to meet at the State Capitol, Room 447, in Sacramento. Open session agenda items will include an opportunity for public comment. Additional information on the Notice of Meeting can be located on the Commission's calendar at [Events Calendar](#).

In Memory of Wally Boeck

The Commission regretfully learned of the passing of former Executive Director of the Commission, Mr. Wally Boeck, on Thursday, November 6, 2008.



Mr. Boeck served the students of California honorably from August 1998 to April 2003 as the Commission's Executive Director. He also served as a community leader, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of a County Aviation Commission, Committee member of Regional Redevelopment and Chair of a Regional Airport Authority. He was also recognized as instrumental in the creation of California State University-Channel Islands, the cost-effective conversion of Camarillo State Hospital into CSU's 23rd campus.

Services for Mr. Boeck are scheduled for December 13, 2008. Our prayers go out to Mr. Wally Boeck and his family.

The Commission remains dedicated to keeping you apprised of any new information that may affect our programs. Please forward your ideas and comments to Fastblast@csac.ca.gov

